



Iowa Department of Human Services

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INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1561

DATE: October 13, 2015

TO: Iowa Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver and Habilitation Providers, Targeted Case Managers and Case Managers

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Core Standardized Assessment (CSA) Tool Listening Sessions for Persons Receiving Mental Health Services

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The IME, on behalf of the Balancing Incentive Program (BIP), announces plans to conduct statewide listening sessions to engage Iowa Medicaid members, their family members, providers, case managers and advocacy groups. A listening session is a meeting in which background information is provided and participants have the opportunity for discussion and to provide feedback to the department on key topics. The purpose of these listening sessions is to solicit input regarding the selection of an appropriate core standardized assessment tool to measure the supports needed for a person seeking Iowa Medicaid mental health services to live successfully in a community setting of their choice.

With advice from key stakeholders and advocacy groups, the engagement process includes seven face-to-face sessions in different locations throughout the state and two online webinars with teleconferences. Session times and locations are found on the [Listening Sessions information flyer](#)¹. Stakeholders will be asked to provide feedback regarding important key factors to consider in selecting an assessment tool and the assessment process. Written comments may also be submitted by email to DHSCoreStandardizedAssessments@dhs.state.ia.us.

Webinar session attendance is limited and pre-registration is required. Registration is free. Registration information is on the [Listening Sessions information flyer](#). Background information will be provided at the face-to-face meetings and at the webinars. Participants will be asked to provide feedback regarding important key factors to consider in selecting an assessment tool. The information presented at each meeting and each webinar will be the same. Information gathered at the listening sessions and through written submissions, will be used to inform the selection of an assessment tool and design the assessment process.

The 2013 Health and Human Services Appropriations bill Senate File 446 directed DHS to contract with an independent entity to conduct a stakeholder engagement process and perform the selected core standardized assessments. Telligen, Inc. was the vendor selected

¹ https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/CSA_Listening_Sessions-MH_Waiver.pdf

to implement the chosen CSA for populations served by the Iowa Medicaid HCBS waiver programs.

Additional information regarding the CSA program can be found on the [CSA section of the BIP webpage](#)². Questions can be submitted to: DHSCoreStandardizedAssessment@dhs.state.ia.us.

² <https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/about/initiatives/BIPP/CSA/Listening>